Swanscombe Cemetery,

Swanscombe, Kent, England

War Grave

Lest We Forget

World War 1

794 CORPORAL

E. W. HARDY

11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH JUNE, 1917 Age 26

No Earthly Clinging, No Lingering Gaze

No Strife At Parting, No Sore Amaze,

But Sweetly, Gently, He Passed Away

From This World's Dim Twilight To Endless Day.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

Edward William HARDY

Edward William Hardy was born at Swanscombe, Dartford, Kent, England in 1891 to parents George and Mary Ann Hardy (nee Stanley).

Edward William Hardy attended Galley Hill Council School, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Edward W. Hardy as a 9 year old, living with his family at 19 Northfleet Crescent, Swanscombe, Kent, England. His parents were listed as George W. Hardy (Cement Labourer, aged 39, born Northfleet, Kent) & Mary A. Hardy (aged 46, born Singlewell, Kent). Edward was one of five children listed in this Census (all born Swanscombe, Kent) – George S. Hardy (Cement Labourer, aged 17), Arthur H. Hardy (Goods Clerk, aged 14), Edith M. Hardy (aged 12) then Edward & Bernard W. Hardy (aged 2).

The 1911 England Census recorded Edward W. Hardy as a 19 year old Fitter's Engineer boarding at 65 Bath Street, Gravesend, Kent, England. Elinor Stephens, a 66 year old Widow was head of the house. Also listed was Caroline G. Stephens (daughter of Elinor, aged 31, a Music Teacher); George A. Turner (Grandson of Elinor, at School, aged 12) & Fred George McCusker, (Boarder & Store Keeper, aged 29).

According to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour – Edward Hardy came to Australia when he was 21 years old.

Edward Hardy was a 23 year old, single, Miner from 1854 Boundary Street, South Kalgoorlie, Western Australia when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 5th September, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 794 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as George William Hardy, 2 Ariel Villas, Milton Rd, Swanscombe, Kent, England. (According to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour – Edward Hardy was a Blacksmith).

[The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kalgoorlie, subdivision of Hannans listed Edward William Hardy, Miner, from 1854 Boundary Street, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.]

Private Edward Hardy was posted to "G" Company, 11th Battalion Infantry on 5th September, 1914 for recruit training.

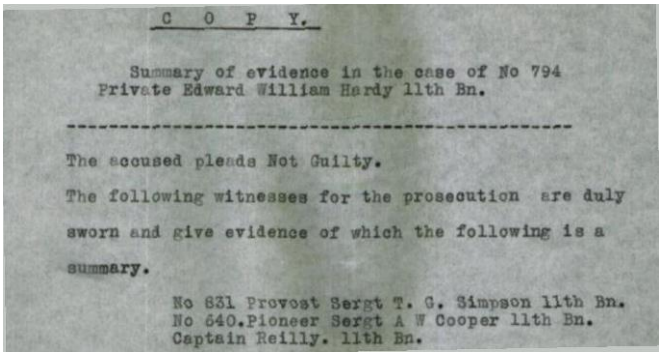
Private Edward Hardy was reported to be Absent without leave on 29th October, 1914. He forfeited 1 days' pay & was awarded 3 days Confined to Camp.

Private Edward Hardy embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 31st October, 1914 with the 11th Infantry Battalion "G" Company.

Private Edward Hardy embarked from Alexandria on 2nd March, 1915 on HMT *Suffolk* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli Peninsula.

Private Edward Hardy was awarded 14 days Detention on 10th March, 1915.

A Field General Court Martial was held on 12th March, 1915 at Mudros. The alleged Offender was No. 794 Private Edward William Hardy who was charged with "*When on Active Service, disobeying in such manner as to show a wilful defiance of authority a lawful command given by his superior officer in the execution of his office*." A plea of Not Guilty given.



C O P Y.

Summary of evidence in the case of No 794
Private Edward William Hardy 11th Bn.

The accused pleads Not Guilty.

The following witnesses for the prosecution are duly sworn and give evidence of which the following is a summary.

No 631 Provost Sergt T. G. Simpson 11th Bn.
No 640.Pioneer Sergt A W Cooper 11th Bn.
Captain Reilly. 11th Bn.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

No 831. Provost Sergt T G Simpson, 11th Bn.

On the morning of the 11th inst., I ordered the accused to "Fall in" he did so and immediately said "I refuse" meaning that he refused to do the duty which I was about to detail for him.

No 640 Pioneer Sgt A W Cooper 11th Bn.

On 11th inst., I heard the accused refuse duty when ordered by Provost Sergt T G Simpson.

Captain R. R. Reilly. 11th Bn.

I was ship's captain of the day on 11th inst., I was informed by the orderly officer that the men undergoing Detention had refused duty. I went to the deck where the men were drawn up under the Provost Sergt and asked the accused if he refused to go on duty and he replied "Yes". I gave all the men who refused to work two minutes to reconsider their decision and pointed out the penalty for their offence. The accused did not signify his intention to carry out the order at the end of the time stated.

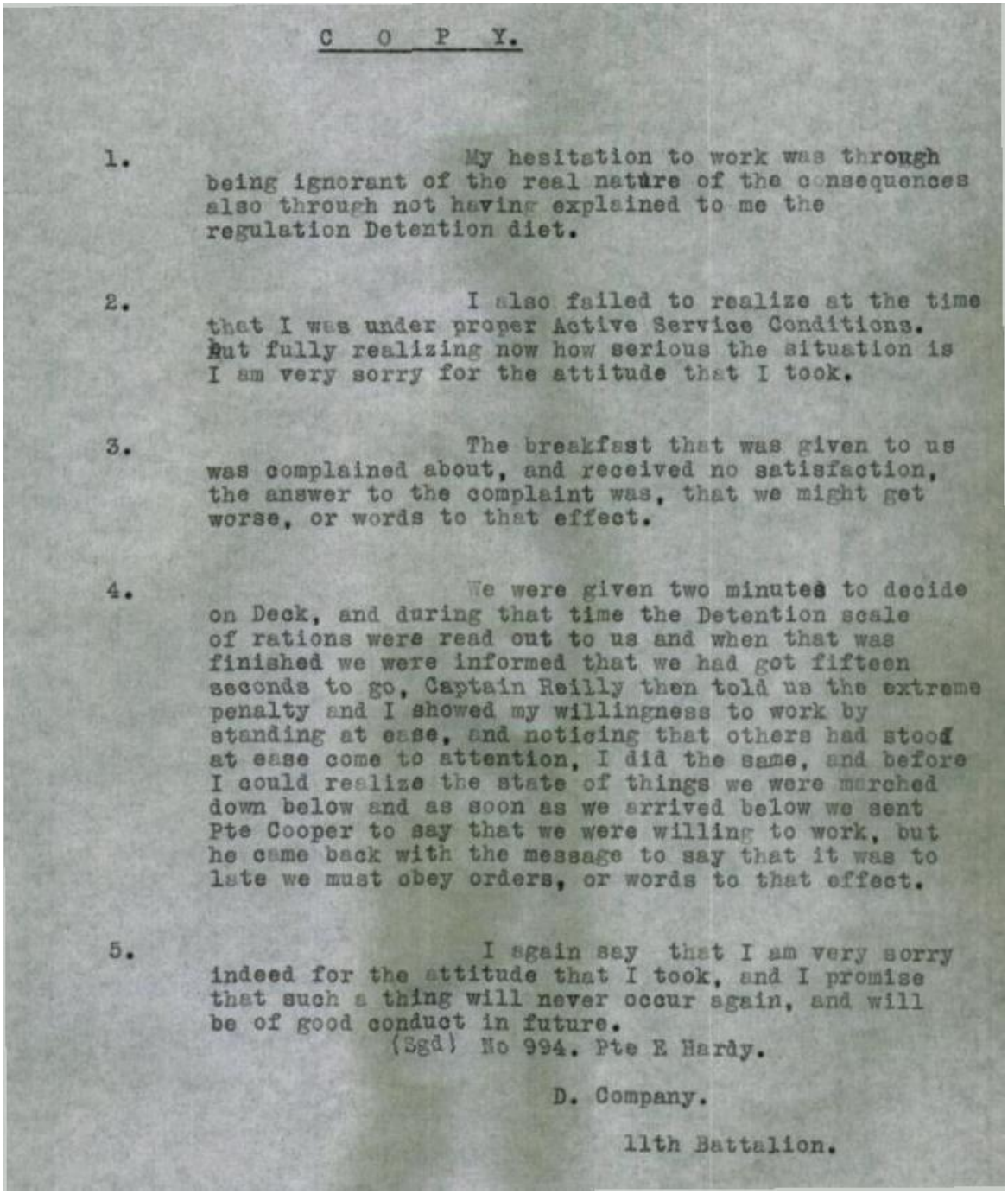
C O P Y.

CAPTAIN CROLEY WITNESS FOR THE ACCUSED STATES:-

The accused is a member of my Company, up till five days ago he had no entry in his sheet he is a good worker and has given every satisfaction.

The accused in his defence states written statement attached.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021



C O P Y.

1. My hesitation to work was through being ignorant of the real nature of the consequences also through not having explained to me the regulation Detention diet.

2. I also failed to realize at the time that I was under proper Active Service Conditions. But fully realizing now how serious the situation is I am very sorry for the attitude that I took.

3. The breakfast that was given to us was complained about, and received no satisfaction, the answer to the complaint was, that we might get worse, or words to that effect.

4. We were given two minutes to decide on Deck, and during that time the Detention scale of rations were read out to us and when that was finished we were informed that we had got fifteen seconds to go, Captain Reilly then told us the extreme penalty and I showed my willingness to work by standing at ease, and noticing that others had stood at ease come to attention, I did the same, and before I could realize the state of things we were marched down below and as soon as we arrived below we sent Pte Cooper to say that we were willing to work, but he came back with the message to say that it was to late we must obey orders, or words to that effect.

5. I again say that I am very sorry indeed for the attitude that I took, and I promise that such a thing will never occur again, and will be of good conduct in future.

(Sgd) No 994. Pte E Hardy.

D. Company.

11th Battalion.

Private Edward William Hardy was found guilty by The Court on 15th March, 1915 & three months Field Punishment No. 1 was awarded. Colonel E. G. Sinclair MacLagan remitted one month's Field Punishment. This was reduced to five weeks Field Punishment of same grade by order of G.O.C. in Chief on 20th April, 1915.

Private Edward Hardy was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance at Dardanelles on 24th August, 1915 with diarrhoea. He was discharged & rejoined his Unit at Dardanelles on 27th August, 1915.

Private Edward Hardy was sent sick to Hospital at Gallipoli Peninsula on 25th September, 1915. He was admitted to 2nd Field Ambulance on 25th September, 1915 with Influenza. Private Hardy was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 26th September, 1915 then transferred to Hospital Ship the same Day. Private Hardy was admitted to Hospital Ship *Gascon* on 26th September, 1915 with Influenza. He was admitted to Hospital at Gibraltar on 8th October, 1915 then invalided to England on 14th October, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Italia*.

Private Edward Hardy was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital at Birmingham, England – Dudley St Section on 18th October, 1915.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

Private Edward Hardy reported at Inter Base at Abbey Wood, England on 15th November, 1915.

Private Edward William Hardy married Alice Margaret Dance on 13th February, 1916 in Christ Church, Mitcham, Surrey, England. Private Hardy was listed as a 24 year old Soldier in the Australian Imperial Force from 6 Cambridge Terrace, Devonshire Road. Alice Dance was listed as a 23 year old from the same address.

The details of the next-of-kin for Corporal Edward Hardy were altered from his father Mr G. W. Hardy to his wife – Alice M. Hardy, of 2 Ladysmith Maisonettes, Robinson Rd, Tooting. (no date recorded).

Private Edward Hardy proceeded with 27th Draft from Weymouth on 25th March, 1916 to rejoin M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force).

Private Edward Hardy was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 16th April, 1916 from Overseas Base.

Private Edward Hardy embarked from Alexandria (no date) on H.T. *Caledonia* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force).

Private Edward Hardy joined 1st A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Etaples on 20th May, 1916. He was struck off strength of 1st A.I.B.D. on 22nd June, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion in France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private Edward Hardy was appointed Lance Corporal from 25th October, 1916.

Lance Corporal Edward Hardy was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 5th December, 1916 & was confirmed Corporal on 12th December, 1916.

Corporal Edward Hardy was wounded in action on 11th April, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance on 12th April, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to leg & head. Corporal Hardy was transferred & admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 12th April, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 13th April, 1917. Corporal Hardy was transferred to England on 1st May, 1917 on Hospital Ship *West Australia.*

11th Battalion

The 11th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Western Australia, and with the 9th, 10th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within weeks of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked for overseas after just two weeks of preliminary training. It arrived in Egypt to continue its training in early December. The 3rd Brigade was the covering force for the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 and so was the first ashore at around 4:30 am. Ten days after the landing, a company from the 11th Battalion mounted the AIF's first raid of the war against Turkish positions at Gaba Tepe. Subsequently, the battalion was heavily involved in defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead. In August, it made preparatory attacks at the southern end of the ANZAC position before the battle of Lone Pine. The 11th Battalion continued to serve at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 11th Battalion returned to Egypt. It was split to help form the 51st Battalion, and then bought up to strength with reinforcements.

In March 1916, the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July. After Pozieres, the battalion manned trenches near Ypres in Flanders before returning to the Somme valley for winter.

In 1917 the battalion took part in the brief advance that followed the German Army's retreat to the Hindenburg Line. During a German counterattack at Louverval, France, in April 1917 Lieutenant Charles Pope was killed performing the deed for which he would be awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. The battalion subsequently returned to Belgium to participate in the offensive that became known as the Third Battle of Ypres……

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

War Diary – 11th Battalion

11th April, 1917 – Louverval

The battalion relieved the 10th Battalion in the line in front of LOUVERVAL from D.20d3.6 to J.5 central……

The relief was completed without incident at 23.55

During the evening snow fell and conditions were miserable.

12th April, 1917 – Louverval J.4.C.45

The C. O. Major R. A. Rafferty and the I.O. Lieut C. G. Ross, M.C. visited the lines in the moring & again in the afternoon.

It was decided to alter the dispositions and to move the line forward as soon as the present line had been improved and consolidated. The consolidation was completed during the night.

During the day the enemy intermittently shelled the front line and LOUVERVAL.

In the evening another heavy fall of snow occurred.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Corporal Edward William Hardy was admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England on 2nd May, 1917 with Shrapnel wounds to leg, hands & skull (fracture)(as per Hospital Admissions form. The Casualty Form – Active Service recorded his wounds as "GSW Head & R. Leg, 1st Finger amputated R. Hand. 3rd & 4th L. Hand."

Corporal Edward William Hardy died at 10.50 pm on 5th June, 1917 at 2nd Southern General Hospital, Southmead, Bristol, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. to head & Meningitis Septic.

A death for Edward W. Hardy, aged 26, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Corporal Edward William Hardy was buried on 12th June, 1917 in Swanscombe Cemetery, Swanscombe, Kent, England – Plot number 1423 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Corporal Edward W. Hardy - *Coffin was very good, Oak, Brass Plate, 6 Brass handles. Deceased was interred with full Military Honours Firing Party & Drum & Fife Band which consisted of 1 Officer & 42 other ranks from the Suffolk Regiment stationed at Gravesend. The b ody was conveyed to the Cemetery on a Gun Carriage and the coffin draped with the Union Jack. Among the mourners were 2 N.C.O.'s & 12 men from the 3rd Aus Aux Hos; Dartford of the deceased's Battn (11th) of whom 6 acted as bearers. A short service was held prior to the interment in the Cemetery Chapel. On completion of the Burial Service 3 volley's were fired by the firing party & the Last Post was sounded by three Buglers.*

The chief mourners were the Deceased's wife (Mrs A. M. Hardy) & 12 other relatives. There were numerous floral tributes. It is the wish of the relatives that the erection of a Memorial shall be carried out by the Australian Administrative Headquarters.

A list of relatives who attended the Funeral – Mrs A. M. Hardy (Wife), Mrs E. Simmonds (Sister), Bernard Hardy (Brother), Mrs A. Cooper (Aunt), Mr A. H. Hardy (Uncle), Mrs A. H. Hardy (Aunt), Mr W. H. Hardy (Uncle), Mrs W. H. Hardy (Aunt), Mr L. Simmons (Brother-in-Law), Mrs G. Hardy (Sister-in-law), Mrs A. Dance (Mother-in-law), Mrs E. Evans (Sister-in-law), Mrs A. Hardy (Sister-in-law) & Mr E. Evans (Brother-in-law).

Corporal Edward W. Hardy requested in his Will, dated 14th March, 1917, that in the event of his death the whole of his effects be given to his wife – Mrs Alice Hardy, 2 Ladysmith Maisonettes, Robinson Rd, Tooting, London, England.

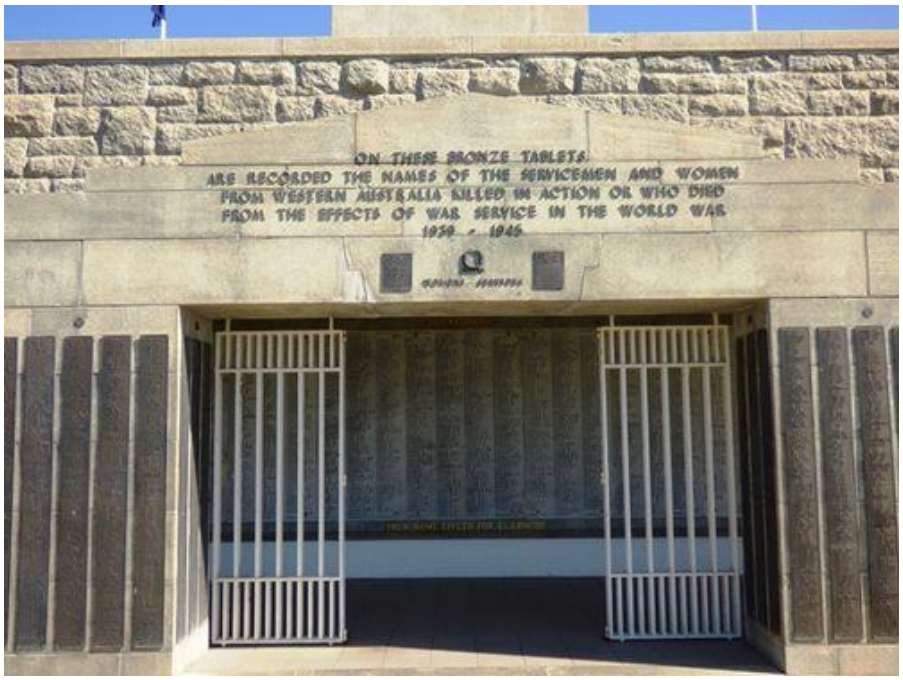
Corporal Edward William Hardy was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Hardy's widow – Mrs A. M. Hardy, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England).

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Edward William Hardy – service number 794, aged 26, of 11th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George & Mary Ann Hardy; husband of Alice M. Hardy, of 2 Ladysmith Maisonettes, Robinson Rd., Tooting, London.

E. W. Hardy is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.


ON THESE BRONZE TABLETS
ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF THE SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN
FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA KILLED IN ACTION OR WHO DIED
FROM THE EFFECTS OF WAR SERVICE IN THE WORLD WAR
1939 - 1945

Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above) & (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

11th Battalion Panel *(Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)*

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

Corporal E. W. Hardy is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 62.

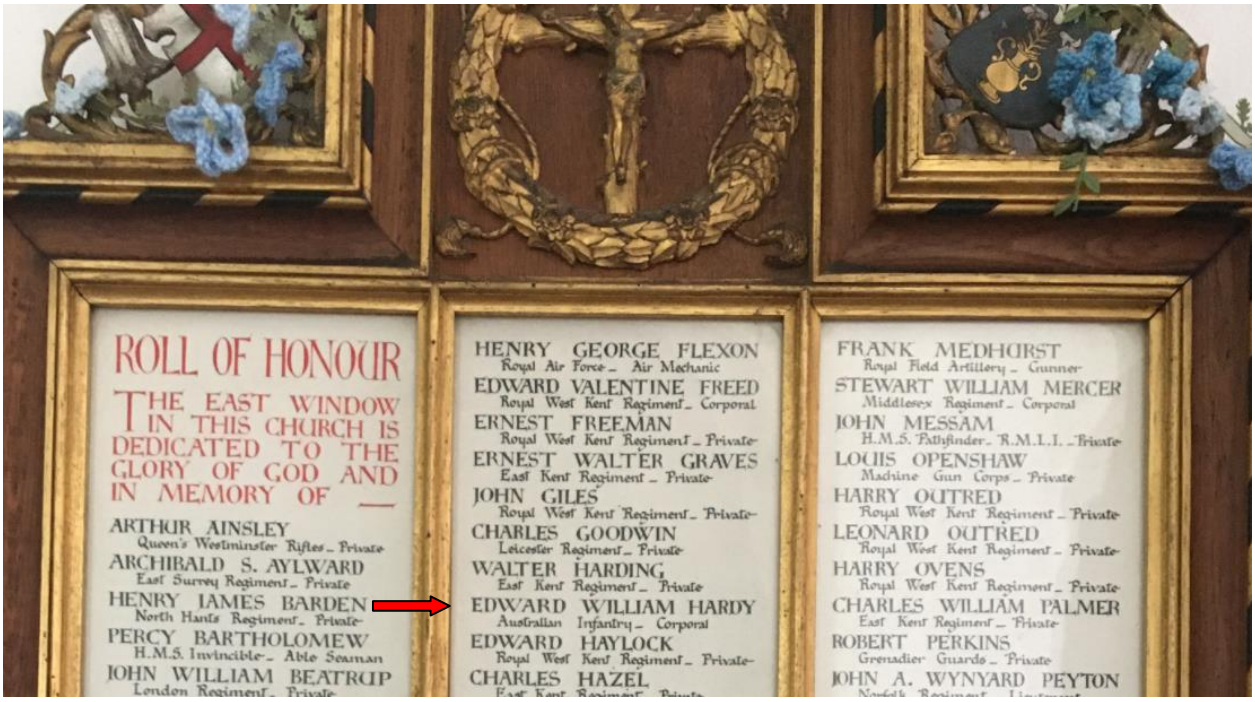
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Edward William Hardy is remembered on the Sts. Peter & Paul Church Roll of Honour, located in St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Swanscombe Street, Swanscombe, Kent, England.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

Sts. Peter & Paul Church Roll of Honour

(Photos from War Memorials Online – Andrew Marshall)


ROLL OF HONOUR
THE EAST WINDOW IN THIS CHURCH IS DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF —
ARTHUR AINSLEY
Queen's Westminster Rifles – Private
ARCHIBALD S. AYLWARD
East Surrey Regiment – Private
HENRY JAMES BARDEN
North Hants Regiment – Private
PERCY BARTHOLOMEW
H.M.S. Invincible – Able Seaman
JOHN WILLIAM BEATRUP
HENRY GEORGE FLEXON
Royal Air Force – Air Mechanic
EDWARD VALENTINE FREED
Royal West Kent Regiment – Corporal
ERNEST FREEMAN
Royal West Kent Regiment – Private
ERNEST WALTER GRAVES
East Kent Regiment – Private
JOHN GILES
Royal West Kent Regiment – Private
CHARLES GOODWIN
Leicester Regiment – Private
WALTER HARDING
East Kent Regiment – Private
EDWARD WILLIAM HARDY
Australian Infantry – Corporal
EDWARD HAYLOCK
Royal West Kent Regiment – Private
CHARLES HAZEL
FRANK MEDHURST
Royal Field Artillery – Gunner
STEWART WILLIAM MERCER
Middlesex Regiment – Corporal
JOHN MESSAM
H.M.S. Pathfinder – R.M.L.I. – Private
LOUIS OPENSHAW
Machine Gun Corps – Private
HARRY OUTRED
Royal West Kent Regiment – Private
LEONARD OUTRED
Royal West Kent Regiment – Private
HARRY OVENS
Royal West Kent Regiment – Private
CHARLES WILLIAM PALMER
East Kent Regiment – Private
ROBERT PERKINS
Grenadier Guards – Private
JOHN A. WYNYARD PEYTON

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

Corporal Edward William Hardy is remembered on the Carved in Stone – Exploring Merton's wartime generation 1914 -1918 website.

merton
CARVED IN STONE
Exploring Merton's wartime generation 1914 - 1918
Part of the Merton Memories Photographic Archive

(42 pages of Corporal Edward William Hardy's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives

Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

110th Casualty List

Western Australia

ILL, WOUNDED, IN HOSPITAL, ETC

11th Battalion: …E. Hardy, England, ill, hospital, Birmingham.

(*Sunday Times*, Perth Western Australia – 21 November, 1915)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

292nd CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Corporal E. Hardy, (England), dangerously

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 11 May, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

DIED OF WOUNDS

Cpl. E. Hardy, (England)

(*Sunday Times*, Perth Western Australia – 1 July, 1917)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Corporal Edward William Hardy has a Private Headstone.

Swanscombe Cemetery, Swanscombe, Kent, England

Swanscombe Cemetery has 31 Commonwealth War Graves – 18 from World War 1 & 13 from World War 2.

(Photo by js – Find a Grave)

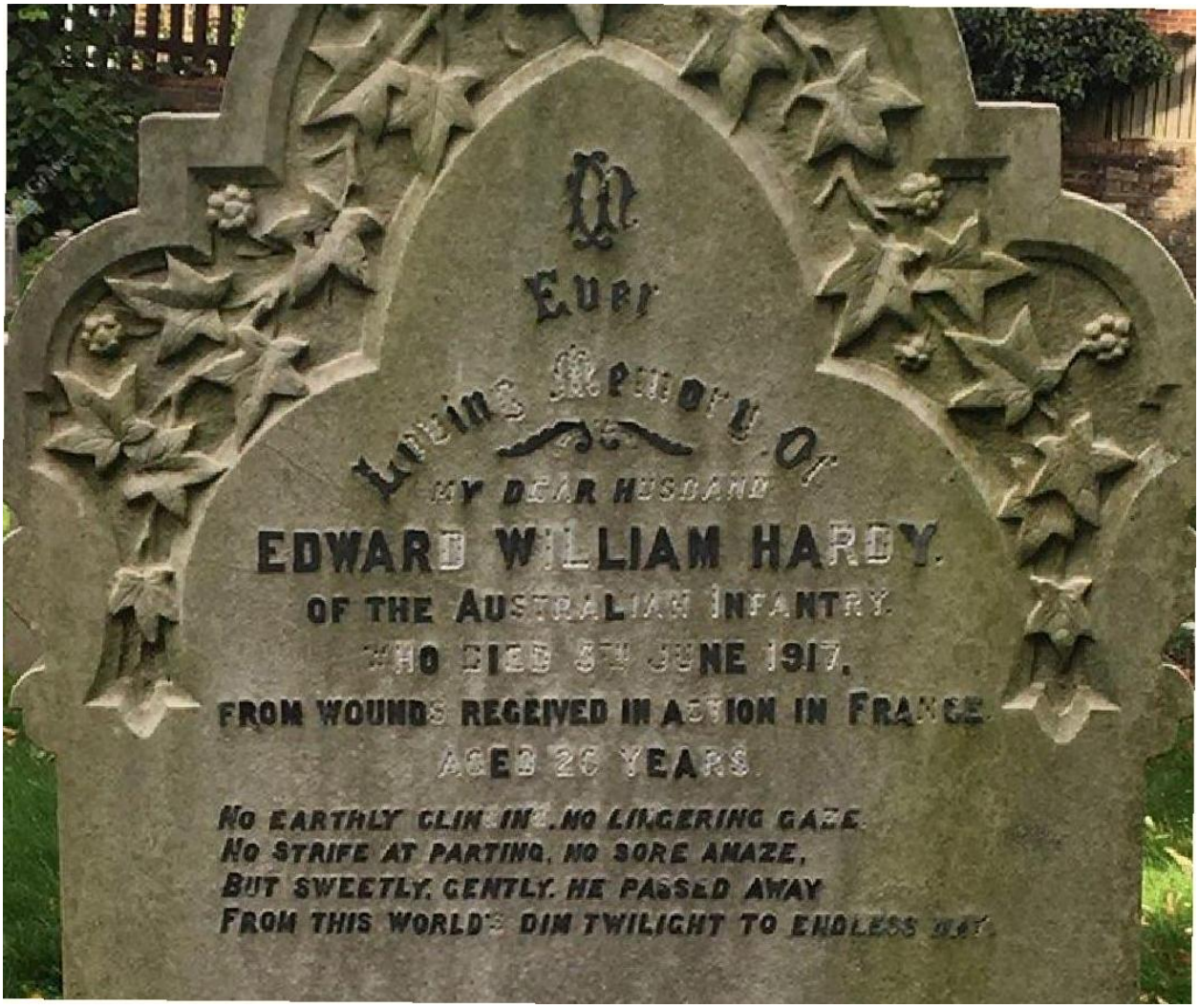
© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

Photo of Corporal E. W. Hardy's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Swanscombe Cemetery, Swanscombe, Kent, England.

EDWARD WILLIAM HARDY
OF THE AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY
FROM WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION IN FRANCE
AGED 20 YEARS
NO EARTHLY CLIN IN . NO LINGERING CACE
NO STRIFE AT PARTING, NO SORE AMAZE,
BUT SWEETLY, GENTLY, HE PASSED AWAY
FROM THIS WORLD'S DIM TWILIGHT TO ETERNAL DAY

(Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Gillon)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021


IN
EVER
LOVING MEMORY OF
MY DEAR HUSBAND
EDWARD WILLIAM HARDY.
OF THE AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY.
WHO DIED 5TH JUNE 1917.
FROM WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION IN FRANCE.
AGED 26 YEARS.
NO EARTHLY CLINGING, NO LINGERING GAZE.
NO STRIFE AT PARTING, NO SORE AMAZE,
BUT SWEETLY, GENTLY, HE PASSED AWAY
FROM THIS WORLD'S DIM TWILIGHT TO ENDLESS DAY.

In

Ever

Loving Memory Of

My Dear Husband

EDWARD WILLIAM HARDY

Of The Australian Infantry

Who Died 5TH June

1917

From Wounds Received In Action In France

Aged 26 Years

No Earthly Clinging, No Lingering Gaze

No Strife At Parting, No Sore Amaze,

But Sweetly, Gently, He Passed Away

From This World's Dim Twilight To Endless Day.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

DARTFORD
Borough Council
SWANSCOMBE CEMETERY
Please help us to keep the Cemetery in the condition in which you would wish to find it.
No Dogs (except guide dogs)
No Ball Games
No Unauthorised Vehicles
No Cycling
ren under 16 must be accompanied by an adult
enquiries to 01322 290059 or 01322 343244
e event of an emergency please telephone: 01322 343434
The Cemetery Opens Today at 9am and Closes at:

(Photo by darealjolo – Find a Grave)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021